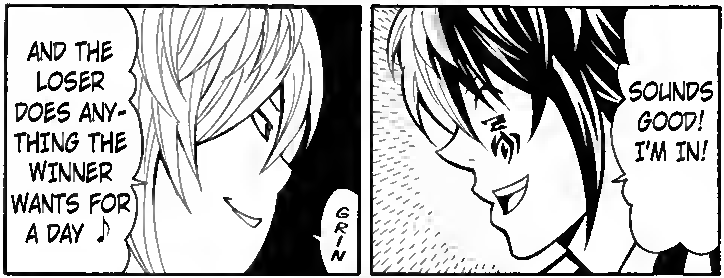

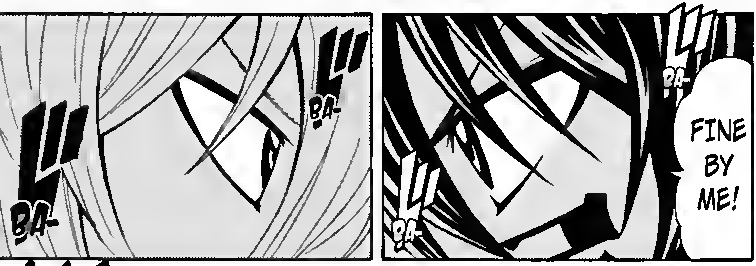

This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is entirely coincidental.

27TH NIGHT: GET THE FAREWELL

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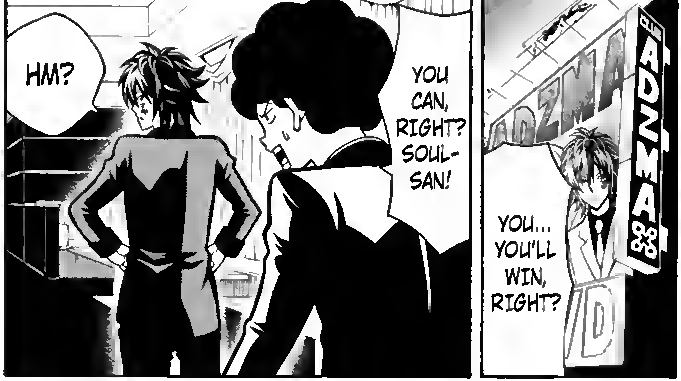
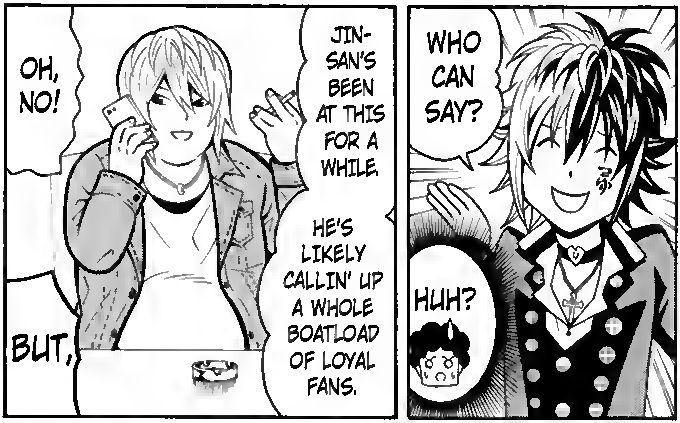
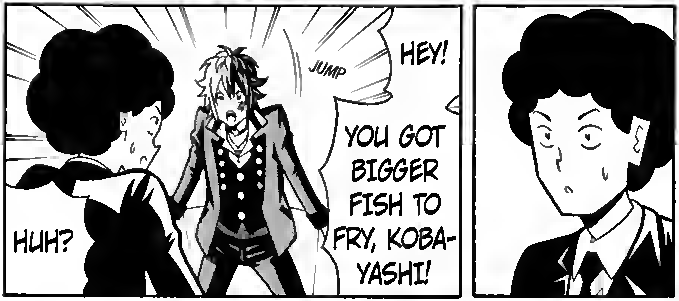

HM?
YOU CAN, RIGHT? SOUL-SAN!
YOU... YOU'LL WIN, RIGHT?
ADAMAS


OH, NO!
JIN-SAN'S BEEN AT THIS FOR A WHILE.
HE'S LIKELY CALLIN' UP A WHOLE BOATLOAD OF LOYAL FANS.
BUT,
WHO CAN SAY?
HUH?

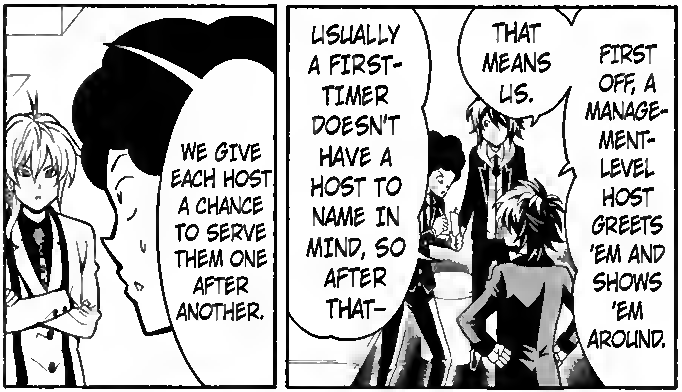
CREAK
I HAVE TO BEAT HIM TO GET NUMBER ONE FOR THE MONTH, TOO!
I'LL BEAT HIM!
NO SENSE IN BETTIN' IF I THINK I'M GONNA LOSE.

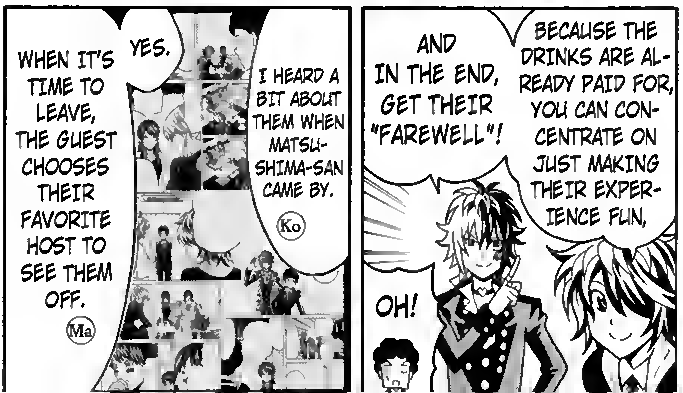
I HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR LOSING OVER AND OVER.


JUMP
HEY!
YOU GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY, KOBA-YASHI!
HUH?

FIRST-TIMERS... GUESTS WHO'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE!
SUDDEN APPEARANCE
TONIGHT YOU'LL BE SERVING FIRST-TIMERS.
THAT'S RIGHT.

WE HAVE A FIRST-TIMER SPECIAL: ¥3,000 FOR TWO HOURS WITH UNLIMITED DRINKS.
IT BRINGS IN A LOT OF FIRST-TIMERS EVERY DAY.
GOTTA WRITE THIS DOWN!
WE GET MORE OF THEM THAN REPEAT CUSTOMERS.


FIRST OFF, A MANAGEMENT-LEVEL HOST GREETS 'EM AND SHOWS 'EM AROUND.
THAT MEANS US.
USUALLY A FIRST-TIMER DOESN'T HAVE A HOST TO NAME IN MIND, SO AFTER THAT—
WE GIVE EACH HOST A CHANCE TO SERVE THEM ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

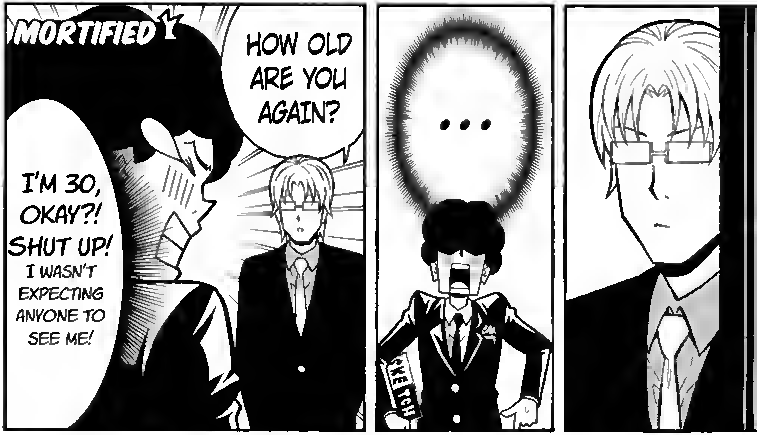

BECAUSE THE DRINKS ARE ALREADY PAID FOR, YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON JUST MAKING THEIR EXPERIENCE FUN.
AND IN THE END, GET THEIR "FAREWELL"!
OH!
I HEARD A BIT ABOUT THEM WHEN MATSUSHIMA-SAN CAME BY.
Ko
YES.
WHEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE, THE GUEST CHOOSES THEIR FAVORITE HOST TO SEE THEM OFF.
Ma

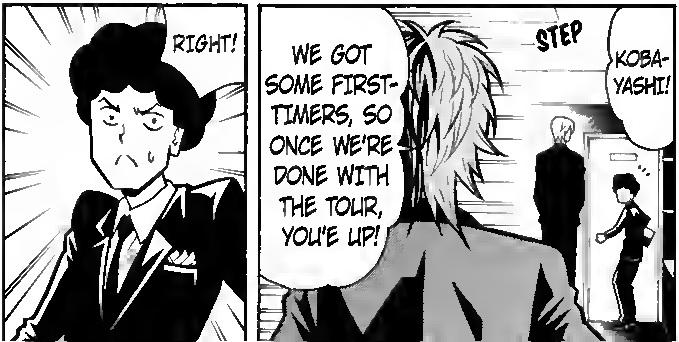
WHICH MEANS, SECURING A "FAREWELL"
BAM
SHOULD BE KOBAYASHI THE HOST'S FIRST GOAL!
POINT
Y-YES, SIR!
...I SAID THAT WITH CONFIDENCE.
BA-DUM
BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING THROWN INTO THE DEEP END!
BA-DUM
DON'T SWEAT IT.
YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER HOST NOW THAN YOU WERE WHEN YOU FIRST CAME.
AH!
YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER, TOO. YOU CAN DO IT!
AND BESIDES,
UGLY PEOPLE SHOULD'VE BEEN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS LONG BEFORE NOW.
STAB
HEY!
DON'T ALL THREE OF YOU SAY IT IN UNISON!

I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
JUST PUT YER HEART INTO IT AND BLOW 'EM AWAY!
PING
AH!
OH!
7PM ALREADY. WE'RE OPEN.
WELCOME TO ADZMA!
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
SO YOU JUST HANG OUT UNTIL WE BRING SOME IN.
LIKE I SAID, WE GOTTA USHER 'EM IN AND INTRODUCE 'EM.
< Inbox
From: Sayaka-chan >
It's Sayaka!
Kobayashi-kun! It's opening time. For you over there, right? Let's try our best today! (^o^)/
CRAP! I FORGOT TO MUTE IT!
OH! AN EMAIL!
FOOP
PING!

BAM!
MY TIME HAS COME!
I'M READY!
AND I HAVE MY PORTRAIT SKETCHING AS MY UNIQUE TOOL
SKETCH BOOK
To: Sayaka-chan!
Re: It's Sayaka!
Yep, just opened! I'll work hard!
TAP-PA
TAP-PA
YOU CAN SEE IT IN MY WORK TOO!
EVER SINCE I BECAME A HOST, I'VE BEEN ON A ROLL!
BAM!
SNAP!
I'LL KEEP THE FLOW GOING AND GET THAT FAREWELL!
SKETCH BOOK
KOMIYAMA

BREAK ROOM
NO SMOKING
ACK!


MORTIFIED
HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
I'M 30, OKAY?! SHUT UP!
I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE TO SEE ME!
...


RIGHT!
WE GOT SOME FIRST-TIMERS, SO ONCE WE'RE DONE WITH THE TOUR, YOU'E UP!
STEP
KOBA-YASHI!

CHAT-TER
STEP
MUR-MUR
CHAT-TER
STEP
SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO TALK AS MUCH, LET'S PAIR YOU UP WITH ME TO START.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
CHAT-TER
MUR-MUR
NOD
IT'LL GIVE YOU A GOOD IDEA ON THE TRICKS FOR HANDLING FIRST-TIMERS!
WATCH WHAT I DO.

MY NAME IS SOUL!
WHAM
PAR-DON ME!
COMPARED TO WHEN HE'S WITH REGULARS, HE'S
TH THIS IS HOW HE TREATS FIRST TIMERS?
SMILE
SMILE
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ALLOW ME TO SIT WITH YOU?
FLIP
REALLY INTENSE?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 20TH NIGHT: THE BATTLE OF HOSTS!